

UIC Monthly Conference Call Agenda
Region 8 Host
October 19, 2016
Draft

Call in Number: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Roll Call

HQ – Howard Rubin, Dan Chadwick, Leslie Darmin, Holly Green, Beth Hall, Molly Bayer, Jeff Jollie, Bruce Kobelski, Lisa McWhirter, Sue Kelly, Sherri Comerford

Region 1 – Absent

Region 2 – Nicole Kraft

Region 3 – Jill Branby, Karen Johnson, Roger Reinhart,

Region 4 – Nancy Marsh, Becky Allenbach, Larry Cole, Jason Meadows

Region 5 – Janette Hansen, Stephen Jann, Lisa Perenchio, Ray Urchel, Dana Resnick

Region 6 – Brian Graves, Lauren Ray, Phil Dellinger, Willie Lane

Region 7 – Mary Mindrup, Kurt Hildebrandt, David Garrett, Ben Meissner

Region 8 – Douglas Minter, Bruce Suchomel, Lucita Chin, Gary Wang, Omar Sierra-Lopez

Region 9 – David Albright, Calvin Hoe, Michelle Dermer, Joel Kauffman

Region 10 – Evan Osborne

Confirm Agenda

Added Topic - Update on OECA EOY Reporting on Energy Extraction Initiative (see below)

Added Topic – IMRS website is now open for UIC well inventory submission (Beth Hall)

Remembering Harriet Hubbard

Harriet passed away unexpectedly on October 15th. A number of folks on the call shared stories and fond memories of working with Harriet over the years. She will be missed by all you knew her! Information on her obituary was sent out separately including where donations can be sent in her honor.

Hosting 2017 UIC Inspector Training: Region 6 (or other Regions)?

Phil Dellinger confirmed that Region 6 will host next year's training in Dallas in the spring.

August 2016 UIC Manager Meeting action items

State Oversight: Jeff Jollie will send an invite for the first week of November to workgroup members from OGWDW and Regions 5 and 6 to develop standards for state oversight. The first tasks are to compile/review existing materials (e.g., Region 5 templates) and set workgroup milestones.

Updating UIC Guidance: Lisa McWhirter reported that a workgroup of staff from OGWDW and Regions 4 and 6 held its first meeting last week. The workgroup agreed to: 1) complete the list of all guidance to consider for revision; 2) categorize (i.e., policy vs. technical vs. compliance/enforcement) the list and recommend which should be revised; and 3) ask the UIC managers to prioritize/rank those recommended for revision.

NTWG UIC Training Modules: Jeff Jollie reported that the national technical workgroup will demo “scripts” on various UIC topics to inform development of the modules. These modules can/will also include visuals.

OECA EOY Reporting on Energy Extraction Initiative

Dan Chadwick reported that Cynthia Giles, AA/OECA will be briefed on FY 16 results from this effort including number of UIC inspections and enforcement actions. Regions 3, 5, 6, and 8 have or will be reporting their EOY numbers to Dan. Regions are also being asked to QA/QC these numbers in ICIS.

Karen Johnson asked about OECA’s underfunded (including UIC) programs workgroup effort led by Region 4. Molly Bayer reported that OGWDW is reviewing the workgroup’s description of the UIC program and recommendations. Holly Green will submit OGWDW’s comments to the workgroup.

Revisiting UIC DI Delegations of Authority

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Regional Round Robin

R6: Phil summarized the relatively good press coverage in the wake of a 5.8 earthquake in Pawnee, OK adjacent to the Osage Reservation where Class II disposal wells are permitted by EPA. This includes articles informed by Region’s 6’s oversight report on the OK 1425 program obtained via a FOIA request. While DI operators have been willing to voluntarily shut in their wells, this event has revealed weaknesses in the Osage UIC regulations. Phil believes this most recent earthquake could likely not have been foreseen, reflecting that it is getting harder to predict an event of this magnitude. He also mentioned that Dan McNamara of the USGS has documented that the frequency/severity of these events appears to be growing exponentially over time. Karen Johnson mentioned later in the call that new PA State regulations may require seismic monitors for all DI Class II disposal well operations.

R7: No updates

R8: Douglas reported that draft Class I, V, and III permits and proposed aquifer exemption decisions for the proposed Dewey Burdock uranium ISR project will be issued in mid-November for public comment. He also announced that Region 8 will be advertising through EPA's Talent Hub for a GS 13 Engineer/Env Scientist to temporarily fill a vacancy within the UIC program in Denver.

R9: David Albright reported that EPA's final Class III permit decision for a small scale, short-term copper ISR project near Florence, AZ is pending and was informed by extensive NHPA Section 106 consultation with tribal stakeholders and the ACHP. David agreed to share Region 9's NHPA consultation documentation with Regions 5 and 8.

R10: No Updates

R2: No Updates

R3: Karen reported that they will be renewing/reissuing DI Class II disposal well permits for expansion of the Bear Lake project in PA. She expects that the Region's permit decisions will be appealed to the EAB.

Mary Mindrup noted that Karen will be retiring at the end of October. A number of folks shared their appreciation for all that Karen has done for the UIC program through her leadership on a number of important issues over the past 30 years.

R4: No Updates

R5: Steve Jann noted that Region 5 has a new Water Division Director: Chris Korleski. Chris was the former head of the Ohio EPA. Steve also noted that they will be proposing to modify Archer Daniel Midlands' Class VI permit prior to the well beginning operation. Finally, he reported that one applicant had recently withdrawn two UIC permit applications after a request for public hearings.

Region 9 will host the next call on November 16th.